

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO

25X1A

TOPIC Merseburg Airfield

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A

EVALUATION

ED

DATE OF CONT

25X1A

DATE OBTAINED

PREPARED 22 May 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

REFERENCE COPY

DO NOT CIRCULATE

SOURCE

25X1X

1. On 28 April 1951, the new boundaries of the Merseburg airfield were marked by red stakes. The trees along Lauchstaedterstrasse, in the extension of the runway, were cut. The Soviets had forbidden local farmers to cultivate a stretch of land east of this street, in the extension of the runway.
2. The excavation work for the runway, which will be approximately 2,100 meters long, was completed by 28 April. A 40-cm layer of gravel had been laid on a stretch of the runway 300 meters long. The gravel was being graded. Crushed stones, piled up at the field, were to be used for the runway. Fences were observed only around the ordnance depot.
3. Excavation for a fuel tank installation was observed near the target range, which was closed and no longer guarded. According to workers employed on this site, the excavations were to be 35 meters deep. Pumping equipment and material, apparently to be used as supports, were stored at the construction site. Three double-wire circuits were laid recently in the vicinity of the target range. A fourth double-wire was being laid from the northwestern boundary of the field in the direction of Red Lauchstaedt.
4. Construction work at the field was done in three shifts. The Merseburg labor office had furnished 800 workers. About 200 more workers were trucked to the field from the Bitterfeld (M 52/E 14) and Zeitz (M 52/N 08) areas.
5. In late February 1951, the first Soviet officers, wearing blue service color, arrived at the field. On 26 April, a captain and a junior lieutenant wearing blue service color were seen there. The airfield quarters were still occupied by a VP unit and a Soviet company of about 130 men who wore red-bordered black epaulets. *

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- * ~~Comment.~~ For sketch of airfield, see Annex. The improvement of the airfield is confirmed. Preliminary work has been observed since the fall of 1950. It seems that the construction work proper was started about the same time as at the Wernauchen airfield, where approximately 1,000 workers also are employed. The Wernauchen airfield is scheduled to be completed by 1 October 1951.

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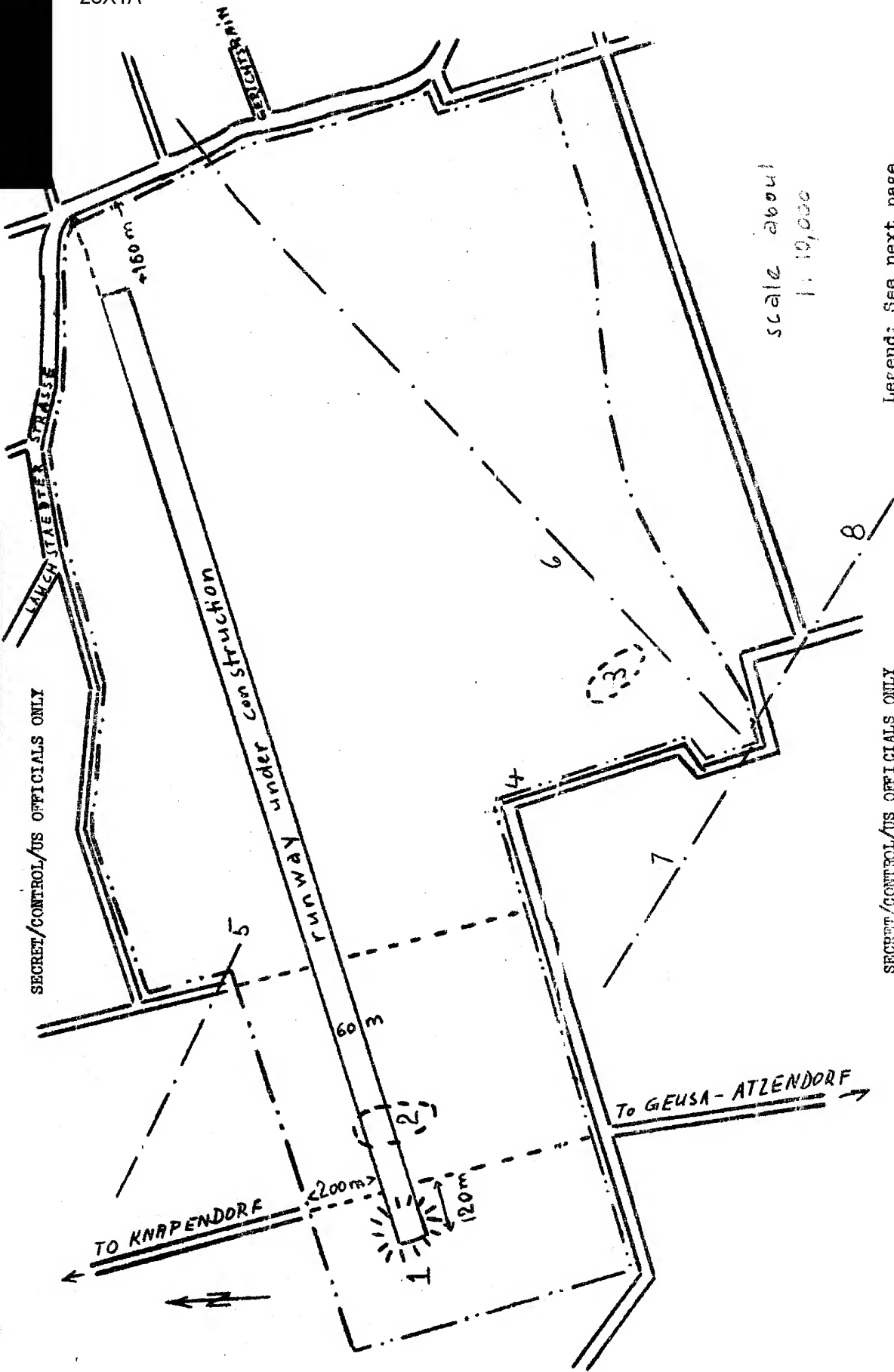
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Merseburg Airfield

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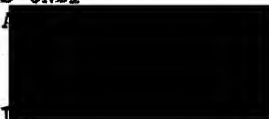


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Legend: See next page

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Legend:

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1. Small hill which is being leveled 25X1A
2. A depression which is being filled in
3. Location of the fuel dump under construction
4. Airfield boundaries
5. Double-wire circuit allegedly running via Bad Lauchstaedt in the direction of the Harz Mountains
6. Double-wire circuit running to Schkondnitz
7. Double-wire circuit to Bad Lauchstaedt
8. Double-wire circuit to the barracks installation on Gousacr-strasse

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